IN THE CLAIMS:

1-24. **(Cancel)**

25-26. **(Canceled)**

27. **(Cancel)**

28. **(New)** A harmless fire retardant, protein-free composition comprising:

(a) water in an amount at least sufficient to dissolve the following (b) to (e) water soluble components up to an amount to be non corrosive,

(b) at least one highly concentrated alkali selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and lithium hydroxide,

(c) at least one acidic concentrate comprising anhydrous citric acid, citric acid or acetic acid,

(d) tetra potassium pyrophosphate, and

(e) at least one alkali metal compound selected from acetate, bicarbonate and carbonate, with or without lithium, sodium and/or potassium, to substantially reduce or eliminate mould and/or fungus attack,

wherein said composition is adjusted to a pH value between 6.5 to 7.0 by an amount of (b) and/or (c), respectively, to ensure a neutral or a slightly acidic aqueous salt solution mixture.

29. (New) The composition of claim 28, wherein the acidic concentrate is about 90% and makes up 35% to 37% by weight of said composition.

30. (New) The composition of claim 29, wherein the acidic concentrate is a blend of citric acid and acetic acid.

31. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein the highly concentrated alkali is potassium hydroxide with a concentration of greater than 80% and in an amount of 15% to 25% by weight of said composition.

32. (New) The composition of claim 31, further comprising an anhydrous dipotassium carbonate.

33. (New) The composition of claim 32, further comprising a softening agent in an amount of .5% to 1.5%.

34. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the alkali metal compound is potassium acetate.

35. (New) The composition of claim 34, comprising anhydrous dipotassium carbonate in an amount of about 6% to 10% by weight.

36. (New) The composition of claim 35, wherein said tetra potassium pyrophosphate is present in an amount of 2% to 3% by weight.